

# THE LABOUR ORGANISER

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## SOME REPORTS AND BALANCE SHEETS

A wonderfully encouraging and prosperous report is that presented by the Huddersfield Labour Party for the year ending March 31st last. The progress of the Party has of recent years been very marked. The narrow majority in the Parliamentary election of 1923 has been increased to 2,265, and the reason thereof is to be gathered from the story of continuous progress and hard work by every section of the Party as disclosed by the report and balance sheet. The Women's Section is a real live asset to the Party, and £250 profit from a sale of work is largely a tribute to their activities. The principal items on the income side of the financial statement are worth repeating. They are: Balance forward £165, sale of work £250, affiliation fees £36, collections at public meetings £376, society grants £154, ward committee grants £59, individual subscriptions £98, collecting cards £77, sale of literature £19, proceeds from Victory rally £24, which, with sundry smaller items bring the receipts up to £1,306. On the expenses side it is interesting to note that public meetings cost £114—so that from the figures above quoted one gets a very emphatic demonstration of the fact that meetings can be made to pay.

The annual report of the North Norfolk D.L.P. is also an encouraging document. Few Divisional Labour Parties for instance are able to report that in addition to holding the Parliamentary seat they have fought eight County Council elections, winning five of them. Among the victors we notice Mr. S. J. Gee, the agent, who with an excellent poll secured a gain in one of the biggest electoral divisions having an area of sixty square miles. Another satisfactory feature is that no less than forty-three Labour representatives are reported as elected to Parish Councils.

The Heywood and Radcliffe D.L.P. has joined the ranks of the four figure Labour Parties, and we note that the individual membership now reaches

528 men and 778 women. The Party is nevertheless not satisfied and is endeavouring to devise further machinery whereby the Party's strength may be improved. Notwithstanding that the Heywood and Radcliffe Party are in the happy position of receiving a substantial grant from the R.C.A., we note that the income side of the balance sheet discloses several satisfactory items, three Local Parties between them, for instance, accounting for approximately £160, while election collections reached £76. We note with interest that an estimate of expenditure for the ensuing year seems customary with this Divisional Party and this is a plan that ought to be far more widely followed.

The Woolwich Labour Party report interests us always and it says much for the strength of the Party, and the enthusiasm of its membership, that it was again able last October to finance the election contest in both East and West Woolwich. The Woolwich Divisions are intensively organised and cultivated areas, and the work of the Ward Committees here may be cited as an example to the rest of the country. Once again there has been an increase in individual membership, the figures having jumped from 3,040 on January 1st, 1924, to 3,595 at the close of the year. Individual members' contributions actually reach the magnificent total of £624 os. 6d., an increase of £163 1s. 5d. on the previous year. We note that the Woolwich Labour Party claims to have the largest individual membership in the kingdom. We are not quite sure of this matter, however, for the honour is being pretty keenly challenge in one or two places. One must not speak of Woolwich without mentioning the excellent work of the Women's Section which, however, has been frequently referred to in our columns. The women's membership stands at 1,509, and it is hoped to pass the 2,000 mark this year. In addition to the membership subscriptions above referred to, we note that affiliation fees

reached £433. Indeed, the figures as a whole, testify to a stirring triumph over exceptional difficulties, and an onward march almost without parallel within our Party.

The Holland-with-Boston Divisional Labour Party have experienced a trying time since the death of Mr. W. S. Royce and the by-election which immediately followed. One has to experience the work of a division like this to thoroughly understand the appalling problem of organisation that is presented—yet, despite these things, we note that no less a sum than £417 10s. has been raised since the by-election in July last year. Not the least gratifying feature about this effort is that members throughout the division appear to have shouldered the burden pretty uniformly and very manfully—thus the D.L.P. benefits by £97 odd from collections and its proportion of individual members' subscriptions, while £159 has come in from special efforts.

The Westminster Labour Party has a hard row to hoe and one reads a note of disappointment in several places in the annual report. Notwithstanding this, it is surprising to find a local membership of 600 and that 100 claims were sent in to the Registration Officer for inclusion on the Spring Register.

We note from the annual report of the Bolton Labour Party that registration work has played an important part in their activities. As a result 350 claims were secured in August last and 1,388 claims were secured for the Spring Register. Both are a very substantial increase on the result for previous periods.

Miss Jessie Stephen, Labour candidate for Portsmouth is open to receive speaking engagements in London or the provinces. We have no doubt that many of our readers will be glad of her address which is: 57, Salehurst Road, Crofton Park, London, S.E.4. Labour Parties in need of a real good time should secure Miss Stephen for a week's mission if possible. There are few women speakers capable of such rousing and effective work as Portsmouth's woman candidate.

## CAN YOU BEAT THIS RECORD?

### GENERAL ELECTION, 1924.

Labour polled 22,700 out of a *total electorate* of 40,644.  
Majority 13,450.

### COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS, MARCH, 1925.

There are 7 seats.  
Labour won the lot.

### RURAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS, APRIL, 1925.

There are 39 seats.  
Labour won 30 of them.

### GUARDIANS' ELECTIONS, APRIL, 1925.

There are 58 seats.  
Labour won 46 of them.

### PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS, 1925.

Labour won 127 seats out of 149.

*The above is the proud record of the*

## CHESTER-LE-STREET Divisional Labour Party

*Agent and Secretary :*

JACK GILLIARD

Second Avenue, Chester-le-Street.

### CONGRATULATIONS !

The Chester-le-Street D.L.P. purchase 60 copies of the "Labour Organiser" per month for the use of officers.



## SOME POINTS FROM THE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

### ON UNDEVELOPED DISTRICTS.

Among the many discussions which took place at Birmingham during the Women's Conference, one of particular interest to readers of the "Labour Organiser" was on the organisation of women in undeveloped districts. Although this discussion took place at the private conference we are sure we will be pardoned for complimenting both Miss Francis and Miss Sutherland on the many practical suggestions they made and for noting below some of the points which struck us as being of special interest to the readers of this journal.

Important points were made concerning the work of propaganda. There was not enough of it in the winter, while of the propaganda work that was done by national propagandists more organisation was needed for securing better results from their work. This it was suggested might be accomplished in part by more endeavours to secure members when meetings were held. There was too much "unco-ordinated propaganda."

The adoption of country areas by women from the towns was spoken of. It was suggested that this could be carried out best, not through public meetings, but through cottage meetings. Another speaker spoke of the railway women in the villages being the best to begin with as these were economically free and did not suffer so much from the tyranny that is not yet dead in the countryside.

An important suggestion was made by Miss Francis on arousing the interest of women in politics by developing interest on some local question. This suggestion has, of course, infinite possibilities and adaptations, and, fortunately, is applicable to the organisation of the general electorate as well as to women.

The nomination of women for Parish Councils was another suggestion of practical import of which Local Parties as well as Women's Sections should take note.

The importance of county rallies as a means of creating confidence and interest was emphasised, but in talking of the kind of speaker who was required we were warned against the town speaker with no knowledge of country

life who came into the village to talk about the proletariat—a thing which the villager, perhaps, conceived to be something in a tin not fit to eat.

It was Miss Sutherland who made the excellent point that the worker in the Movement from the big towns does actually tend to become frightfully provincial and so unable to readily perceive the view and attitude of mind to be found in the purely rural areas.

The private letter through the post as a means of summoning meetings came in for commendation, as also did the proposal for taking out Labour choirs to the villages where, whether indoor or outdoor, some musical attractions could be added to the other endeavours to interest.

Another speaker put forward the problem of organisation in seaside towns which were places that were not always considered when speaking of undeveloped areas. The plea was particularly for attention to propaganda in the winter—practically the only time when propaganda with the residents might be successful.

Consideration of space prevents us this month giving a longer outline of the discussion or enumerating the many practical points that were made on other questions. A full report is to be published in the "Labour Woman," and we would strongly advise men readers as well as women, to get hold of the next two numbers of that paper.

## CONFERENCE PROCEDURE,

SOME NEW METHODS AT THE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

BY DR. PHILLIPS.

*(The following article was written and received prior to the Annual Conference of Women recently held at Birmingham: it was, however, too late for inclusion in our May issue. Readers will consequently understand why the article is written in the future tense, but they will also have the opportunity by now of judging the experiment by its success.)*

The Public National Conference of Labour Women which is held this year at Birmingham on May 27th and 28th, and the Private Business Conference on "Organisation" which precedes it on May 26th have on trial some interesting new methods in conference organisation. Efforts have been made to amalgamate the best points of continental and British procedure, all being directed

towards the reduction of waste of time and the fullest expression of opinion on the subjects discussed.

The typical features of continental procedure are these. A series of subjects is put down on the agenda. Reports are submitted either from one or more delegations. These reports are not usually printed but are given in the form of speeches at the conference itself. Thereafter, follows discussion, mostly in the form of a speech from each of the many delegations. There is then appointed a commission which sits for many hours and hammers out a long resolution which is presented to the conference. As most of the argument has by then been heard and the committee has endeavoured to meet every point of view, one report with, perhaps, a minority report of irreconcilables, is placed before the conference, and voted on without much further time being spent. The procedure requires a very long period of time for the conference and most of it is spent in the commissions, the full conference not meeting every day.

The British system is broadly that of discussing a series of resolutions and amendments reduced to as small a compass as possible by the efforts of the Standing Orders Committee whose special job it is to get composite resolutions and to lessen the number of amendments as far as possible.

The system adopted at the Women's Conference joins both ideas and this year has been carried out very thoroughly. The Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations which is the Labour Party's Advisory Committee on women's affairs and plans the Public Conference, selected certain special subjects for discussion. Resolutions were asked for on these and also special resolutions were drawn up by the S.J.C. These were all sent out on the first agenda, together with any other resolutions on women's special interests which had been sent in. Then it set to work as a commission and prepared special reports on the particular subjects chosen. Consisting as it does of representatives of women organised in the political, industrial and co-operative movement, it is well fitted to bring together every point of view. The reports were printed and sent out with the final agenda so that all organisations and delegates could discuss them before the

Conference. Further, it appointed an Agenda Committee which has grouped the resolutions, formed composite ones and generally arranged the programme printing its recommendations in italics in the agenda before each group of resolutions and amendments. Their report will be taken at the beginning of the Conference, and if any objections are raised, the portion of their proposals objected to will be immediately referred to the Standing Orders Committee to be elected by the Conference to take charge in the usual way of the arrangements from them on. As the number of resolutions this year was more than 100, and the amendments were almost equally numerous, it will be seen that this system gets the Conference under way with as little loss of time as possible.

After all, the object of a conference is to "confer" and if the conference is held only once a year and the attendance is round about 1,000, it is not easy to get the ideal of "conferring" effectively carried out. The Standing Joint Committee has been each year trying to get improvements in its methods and this time the arrangements have reached a higher level of achievement. The proof of them has yet to be made at the Conference itself. But an account of the system may be useful in suggesting ideas to those whose work often includes the organisation of conferences.

At the Business Conference, which is arranged by the Women's Department for delegates of Individual Members only, the continental system is being more closely followed. With the exception of a special report which has been circulated beforehand, and will be dealt with in the usual way, no resolutions have been asked for but three subjects drawn up in very wide terms have been chosen. It is proposed to have discussion opened on each of these and when every point of view has been heard, to refer them to a commission elected from those who have put forward the principal suggestions who will a few hours later bring up special reports in the form of summaries of the chief proposals made. It is thought that this will give more elasticity to the discussion and bring out more useful ideas than taking a series of resolutions and amendments sent in before hand to be voted on without alteration,—and which often deal with purely local questions or small grievances.



# IT'S TIME TO MOVE!

In 1922

The Labour Party had 4,010,361 Paying  
Members

In 1924

The Labour Party had 3,155,911 „

A LOSS of - - - 854,450 „

## BUT

In 1922

The Labour Party polled 4,236,733 Votes

In 1924

The Labour Party polled 5,551,549 „

A GAIN of - - - 1,314,816 „

## *MAKE THEM MEMBERS*

### IT'S TIME TO MOVE

# THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

HELP AND HINTS IN SEASON.

Last month we wrote about the uncalled-for "possessive" and "over-clever" criticism to which prominent persons in the Labour Movement are subjected. We are reminded by a correspondent of another kind of criticism common in our Movement of which secretaries are too often the victims. We refer to the nagging, capricious, and captious kind of criticism directed to everything a secretary or an executive does, which criticism is mistaken by some "comrades" as a useful contribution toward the discussions and decisions of their meetings. Unfortunately, there are some people, and they are rarely those who do the work, who feel it necessary whenever they attend a meeting to speak and criticise on practically every subject that arises. Every secretary knows the sort of people to whom we are referring, and every secretary has suffered from their attentions. There is usually no settled policy about these people. One can understand the man with a bee in his bonnet who is always taking one line and making himself a nuisance by his persistent advocacy of some special method or fad on all and every occasion. He at least has the merit of consistency, but the comrade we have in view is the one who is only consistent by and with his incessant and annoying criticism of everything that moves. Unfortunately, this type of person can always claim a certain following, and it seems these are the kind of crosses which a secretary is expected to bear. Tolerant and tactful, as a sensible secretary will desire to be, there is always a limit, and few men can resist the temptation to occasionally kick back; so we get the setting for an acrimonious evening with its inevitable loss to the Movement. We, however, have always found that the best cure for the nagging critic is to put him into office. Some secretaries, not unnaturally, are chary of placing an official responsibility in such quarters, but after all, no member should remain free to criticise without ever accepting office, and we know of no surer cure for uncharitableness than to make a man share the burden. We have seen some wonderful cures in this direction, and some pesky nuisances have in due course developed into the most painstaking and reliable of officers. Why not

try this on your critic instead of keeping him in the wilderness?

In these times of constant and increasing demands upon the resources of Local Labour Parties, when, in fact, Local Parties are only just beginning to realise the immensity of their local tasks, and that to accomplish them properly they must seek incomes running at least into three figures, the foremost of them have started in earnest upon plans for increased individual membership. That a new life and wide opening fields are opening up before the Party here is now generally acknowledged, and the campaign we have waged in the "Labour Organiser" in favour of this awakening has not been in vain. At the same time it seems opportune to remind local officers that there is another source which is not yielding adequate income or what might justly be expected. In the overwhelming number of Local Labour Parties affiliation fees still remain at twopence per member per annum—yet almost always where this is so it is an indication that a lot has yet to be done to obtain that close touch and understanding with Local Trades Union branches which is necessary to retain success. Affiliation fees in a large number of Local Parties still reach only a meagre figure, and we are utterly unable to understand the stick-in-the-mud attitude of many of them who fail either to develop their individual membership or to realise that twopenny affiliation fees cannot suffice. A number of Local Labour Parties strive in all manner of ways to make ends meet and to raise money, adopting all manner of devices, yet they fail both to develop their individual membership or to procure an adequate income from the affiliated membership they already possess. It makes us wonder whether they have ever examined the financial basis on which they are attempting to work.

Now, one thousand twopences produce the lordly sum of £8 6s. 8d. Ten thousand affiliated members, therefore, give us an income of under £85 per year—and an agent's minimum salary is £260 per annum! Have our friends ever looked this fact in the face? Have they ever *tried* to get a satisfactory



affiliation fee? That it can be done has been evidenced in more than one place. Burnley, for instance, has an affiliation fee of 1/6 per member; Ipswich has an affiliation fee of 1/- per member and there are other places with affiliation fees approaching this sum per member. Obviously it *is* done!

The attempt to raise affiliation fees is invariably met with the statement that though after some trouble the Unions may agree to the increased fee the additional charge is met by reducing the number of affiliated, so that in the end there is no increased payment or income. What a pretty charge to level against the Unions, and what a confession of one's own ineptitude and lack of influence in those quarters. The real truth is that if the present fees are not *felt* there can be little interest; the formula that the man who pays for his politics and feels that he is paying *follows his money with his interest* is just as much true of mass affiliation as it is of individual payment. If increasing the affiliation fee won't bring in more money, then there is work to do in the Trades Union branches.

And is this work in the Trades Union branches being neglected? We have written of this subject to-day because the mind of the Movement is now properly being turned to individual membership, and there is just the

possibility of the campaign for increased affiliations being overshadowed by the membership campaign. This must not be, and it would be a disaster if the importance of work in the Trades Union branches was forgotten or put aside if only for a few months. Why should we not enlist the service of the Trade Unions in *all* our endeavours to expand? Why, when deputising the branches to awaken interest and to ask for increased affiliation fees should we not also ask for their organised help in a membership campaign (there are their wives for instance)? And why, in short, has the Movement in many places ceased to take quite the same interest in educating the Trade Union branch as it did a few years ago? The fact is we have been busy and the business and interests of some Local Parties have grown in so many directions that this rather old time method has been eclipsed. But we would like to-day to urge our readers to *get to the branches* and to prepare the minds of affiliated members for greater political effort, bigger affiliations, and more help in extending the number and membership of the Labour Party.

We note with interest that the profits of the Nottingham May-Day demonstration realised over £70. Circulars and details connected with the Nottingham demonstration appeared in our April issue.

## THAT MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

IS YOURS A

# FOUR-FIGURE LABOUR PARTY

LATEST RECRUIT:  
ST. ALBAN'S DIVISIONAL  
LABOUR PARTY.



Sec.: L. R. ROBERTS,  
40 May's Lane Road,  
Barnet.

**1,276 PAYING MEMBERS.**

## LAW AND PRACTICE.

*[Under this heading are found brief and chatty explanations of points of commoner interest concerning the Law and Practice of Elections. Readers are invited to suggest points for notice herein, but are reminded that suggestions made may not necessarily be dealt with in the next issue.—Ed.]*

### CASUAL VACANCIES ON LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES.

A correspondent brings to our notice the case of a vacancy occurring on an Urban District Council for which the ordinary election would be held next March, but in respect of which no steps are being taken to fill the vacancy. He enquires whether this virtual disenfranchisement of the electors is in order, or alternatively what steps can be taken to enforce the filling of the vacancy?

The above case, though quite simple to the experienced practitioner in local elections, is one which readily causes some confusion to those unacquainted with the variations of local government law, and the point is one on which we have known qualified men to be at a loss in tracing the actual provisions by which the matter is governed. To make matters worse, the text book on the Local Government Act, 1894 ("The Local Government Act, 1894," MacMorran & Dill, Shaw & Sons, price 27/6) is itself undeterminate on the point. In fact, by its reference to the Municipal Corporations Acts, 1882, and the non-incorporation of the Urban District Council rules in its pages, the uninitiated is made to blunder.

Now the Local Government Act, 1894, makes the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, relative to the filling of casual vacancies applicable to the filling of casual vacancies in Guardians and District Councillors' elections "subject to the adaptations, alterations and exceptions" made by certain "Rules" which were to be framed by the then Local Government Board under the Act (i.e., L.G. Act, 1894).

It will be seen, therefore, that to get the actual state of the law one refers neither to the Local Government Act, nor to the Municipal Corporations Act, but to certain rules which are not generally known and are not contained in the text books, and are rarely in the possession even of experienced agents.

The Rules framed under the Local Government Act, 1894, at present in force were published on the 1st January 1898, and are coded as the "Urban District Councillors' Election Order 1898 (Statutory Rules and Order, 1898 No. 1)" and "The Rural District Councillors' Election Order, 1898 (Statutory Rules and Order, 1898, No 2)." These and the Rules framed under other Local Government Acts are always on sale, and may be obtained through H.M. Stationers.

To elaborate the matter still further, the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, Sections 40 and 66, lay down the law as to the filling of casual vacancies in Municipal Elections, Section 66, however, is the clause we are most concerned with, and this reads:—

"On a casual vacancy in a corporate office, the election shall be held within fourteen days after notice in writing of the vacancy has been given to the mayor or town clerk by two burgesses."

Now, in the Urban District Councils Order above referred to, there is an "alteration or adaptation," and the rules read:—

"On a casual vacancy in the office of Urban District Councillor, the election shall be held within one month after notice in writing of the vacancy has been given to the chairman of the District Council or to the clerk by two Councillors."

In addition to the above we also get an additional clause which reads:—

"Nothing in this Act shall authorise or require a returning officer to hold an election to fill a casual vacancy which occurs within six months before the ordinary day of retirement from the office in which the vacancy occurs, and the vacancy shall be filled at the next ordinary election."

Coming back, therefore, to give a simple answer to our friend's question, it will be seen that had the vacancy occurred within six months of its normal occurrence, no election would have been necessary, but occurring as it has done nearly twelve months before the normal vacancy it cannot be filled till two Councillors give notice, and unless two Councillors choose to do so there is no way of compelling the vacancy, nor even would an action lie to compel them to do something, which is in itself entirely discretionary.



If our friends desire to force the matter the only course open is that of publicity. Capital could conceivably be made out of an attempt to prevent the election of a representative.

As the above point arises in connection with several Local Government elections we present the following table which summarises the respective provisions :—

- MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS (Provincial).**—Notice by two burgesses. Election within fourteen days. Election compulsory after notice.
- METROPOLITAN BOROUGHs.**—Notice by two councillors. Election within one month. No election if within six months of ordinary vacancy.
- COUNTY COUNCILS (London or Provincial).**—Notice by two Local Government electors. Election within fourteen days. Election compulsory after notice.
- GUARDIANS. (Outside London).**—Notice by two Guardians. Election within one month. No election if within six months of ordinary vacancy.
- GUARDIANS (London).**—Notice by two Guardians. Election within one month. No election if within six months of ordinary vacancy.
- URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**—Notice by two Councillors. Election within one month. No election if within six months of ordinary vacancy.
- RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**—Notice by two Councillors. Election within one month. No election if within six months of ordinary vacancy.
- PARISH COUNCILs.**—A casual vacancy among Parish Councillors shall be filled by the Parish Council. It is the chairman's duty to convene a meeting of the Council of which proper notice stating the object of the meeting should be given. Should he refuse to do so the meeting may be convened by two Councillors or the County Council may act.

(Next Month—"What is 'Residence.'")

## CORRESPONDENCE.

PROPAGANDA PRINT.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—May I add one further point to these recently given in your Magazine with reference to the above.

In London in the tube stations and the like, one is so in the habit of seeing posters, that one consciously seldom sees any at all.

The Christian Scientists, with whom I have nothing in common, are psychologists, and have applied their knowledge very effectively in their posters. For my part I can walk by a hundred posters without noticing any particularly, but invariably my eye is struck by a Christian Science poster. The reason is that they have a common characteristic which links up their efforts, and make the impressions of yesterday assist the efforts of to-day.

A Labour Science poster has a striking coloured band running through the centre of the poster horizontally.

The colour changes, but the relative geometrical proportion of the strip to the poster remains, as also its position.

The various colours may signify

different churches, this I have not ascertained. They issue handbills printed in like manner.

Now it is not suggested that we should copy the strip, but it is suggested that a like arrangement could be formulated, and if all the posters in a single election had like borders or a like characteristic feature, the appeal would be stronger, and if a party standardised a feature, the value increases with use. It is well to change other features, and this may be the reason for varied colours spoken of above, for the mind having responded, and said "It is a Labour Party poster," next says "It is a different one to the last I saw," and becomes curious enough to read the contents.

It is the million little impressions like that which make one buy certain soaps or the like: it is the million little impressions spoken, written and inferred that breaks down customs of thinking, as of living.

Yours fraternally,  
ALBERT J. INSTONE.

17, Ashby Road,  
N.19.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Correspondents are required to give their full name and address, not, however, necessarily for publication. Replies from general correspondents cannot be given through the post. It is imperative that where a reply depends on a statement of fact (such, for instance, as qualification of an elector to be on the register), the fullest information should be given.*

## VOTING CARDS AT POLLING BOOTHS.

*Question.*—Herewith is a *Guardians'* voting card which was being given to voters at the polling booth, but on the outside of the door. "Sworn statements" can be produced if necessary by people who were "interfered with." Would you care to advise?

*Answer.*—The particulars are very scanty, but there does not seem much in the complaint. Are our comrades altogether free from this interference with voters? Outside the polling booth would be outside the jurisdiction of the presiding officer, unless, of course, access to the booth was obstructed. Individual opinions of presiding officers as to interference with voters differ very widely; some would allege an obstruction on very scant evidence and instruct the police to clear away the person giving out notices. We are afraid that presiding officers in some instances have exercised such powers where they were not required, and have neglected in other cases to keep the booth open and unobstructed. There is no real offence against election law unless intimidation takes place. Interference can, of course, amount to intimidation, but it would require much stronger evidence than is indicated in above instance. By the way, are we who defend peaceful picketing to be the first to condemn a far more innocuous procedure?

## ELIGIBILITY TO DIVISIONAL E.C.

*Question.*—The following point has arisen and we should be glad of your opinion on the matter. Say A.B. is a member of the party either through Trades Union membership or individual membership, but is not appointed delegate to the general committee. Can A.B. be elected to hold one of the offices of the general committee or to the E.C. of that body?

*Answer.*—We should say decidedly not. The officers of the general committee can only be elected from members of that body, and the same com-

monsense rule applies also to the election of the E.C. One can imagine some extraordinary special circumstance arising under which some general committee might desire to have a particular man who is outside their committee as one of their officers. But such action is rare, and there are ways and means of getting over that difficulty.

The point has previously been presented as to whether a person elected to an E.C. need any longer be a delegate to the general committee. In our opinion, having once been elected by the general committee any officer would continue to remain the general committee's representative on the executive, or in his post, for the term of office to which he was elected; but this is a special case and does not create a rule that an E.C. member need not be a member of the general committee. We have known the ruling above referred to abused, and an instance occurs to us where a certain organisation having secured its two representatives election to the executive, promptly appointed two more delegates to the general committee to serve in their places, thus hoping to secure four delegates instead of two to which they were entitled.

## ALFRED WILLIAMSON,

North Mill Ticket Works,  
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

## ROLL TICKETS

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REFRESHMENTS, BILLIARDS,  
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NOTCHED TICKETS for Easy Tearing Supplied to Order.

Official Badges and all kinds of Printing for Shows, Athletic Sports, Galas, etc.

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Established 1835.



## FREEZING OUT THE WOMEN?

By JESSIE STEPHEN (Labour Candidate South Portsmouth 1923 and 1924)

At the Labour Women's Conference held in Birmingham, a resolution was passed with little opposition, suggesting that a special fund should be raised to enable women to stand as Parliamentary candidates, since their chances at the present time are very poor.

There is quite a lot of sentimental slop both written and spoken by prominent men in the Movement about the great debt Labour owes to the women-folk, but when you ask for some practical expression of this, their ears are stopped and the cry for more working women candidates goes unheard.

We are told that the reason for so few women being chosen is the lack of funds. This may be true, but it is not the whole case, for there are plenty of men candidates to be found who are in an equally impoverished condition, who yet manage to be chosen despite their lack of funds. From my own observation I can assert definitely that not a few leading officials in local Labour Parties are stricken with a Victorian myopia. They are more old-fashioned than Adam, and that's saying some.

"Women candidates! Woman's place is the home, not in politics." Believe me, this is no exaggeration!

It is disgraceful that it should be necessary to raise a special fund within the Labour Movement. Personally, I am not deeply enamoured of the proposal, but as things are, I do not see what else is to be done. So long as constituencies decide their choice of candidate by the amount of ready cash he or she is prepared to put into the fight, so long will the Movement be deprived of many of its most active spirits where they might prove of great value.

In the early days of the Movement, when we were much fewer in numbers and not regarded as a happy hunting ground for respectable and orthodox carpet-baggers, there was never any question of putting up a candidate simply because he had the money. No fear! You couldn't have got them to stand in those days.

The movement which depends upon moneyed candidates is surely doomed to lose its soul, and the right way is for every local party to foot the bill. Don't

tell me it can't be done. That's nonsense! Where there's a will there's a way, and what is worth having is worth paying for. It is always the man who pays the piper who calls the tune, and a constituency party has less right to dictate to a member who foots every bill than to one who finds nothing but his willing service in the cause of suffering humanity. No more *should* be expected.

If some of our comrades spent less time discussing each other's faults and failings in the branch meeting, they would find plenty of time to think out ways and means of raising the necessary finance to run a candidate. In Portsmouth South, we have tackled this difficulty and managed to raise nearly £600 in less than fifteen months, although when I first fought the constituency at short notice in 1923 there was little or no organisation to speak of.

Greatly to their credit they were not afraid to risk the experiment of a woman candidate, although I knew that there was no hope of winning the seat at the first attempt. Which brings me to another point. How does it happen, with almost unvarying regularity that our women candidates are asked to fight forlorn hopes? Is it because they are suspected to possess greater courage to face disappointments?, I have asked this question of quite a few, but have never yet received an answer to it.

The Movement need not think that the very individuals who do so much of their work in election periods and between, who raise money for the men to spend, are going to be treated merely as head cooks and bottle-washers. We are comrades, on an equal footing, and we demand that that equality shall extend beyond the raising of cash, working for bazaars, and the hundred and one odd jobs that women comrades are expected to perform.

Shall we have to raise that fund and shame the whole Movement, or will the Movement rise to the occasion?

(We print the above article—not because we are in entire agreement with all the sentiments therein expressed—but because it presents a point of view held by many women and which has not been expressed in any journal with the candour with which Miss Stephen gives her views. We must, however, while hoping for more women candidates, express our disagreement with the suggestion that with "unvarying

regularity" women candidates are asked to contest forlorn hopes. Facts do not bear out this charge, and we present a list of seats which have been contested by women candidates all of which are first-class possibilities. That there have been other seats fought by women candidates without the slightest hope of success is evidence rather of the fact that women have shared that heavy task with the men, than that it has been their invariable lot, and put upon them exclusively.

STOURBRIDGE.  
NORTHAMPTON.  
EAST HAM.  
ISLINGTON EAST.  
ISLINGTON NORTH.  
NORTH LAMBETH.  
KING'S NORTON.  
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.  
NORWICH.  
MIDDLESBROUGH EAST.  
NORTHWICH.  
BLACKBURN.

There are several others with three or four thousand majorities to pull down—not a big task as Labour views these matters nowadays.—*Ed "L.O."*.

### QUALIFIED OR DISQUALIFIED.

#### COUNSEL'S OPINION.

The following question has been submitted to counsel :—

Does a lady, now on superannuation, who formerly was employed by a Board of Guardians as mistress of its institution come within paragraph (D) of subsection 1 of Section 46 of the Local Government Act, 1894, or, does superannuation come within the meaning of "emolument" as in Section 14 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 57 ?

The answer of counsel in respect to this question is "No."

The Section of the Local Government Act quoted reads as follows :—A person shall be disqualified for being elected or being a member or chairman of a Council of a parish or of a district other than a borough or of a Board of Guardians if he—

- (a) Is an infant or an alien ; or
- (b) Has within twelve months before his election, or since his election, received union or parochial relief ; or
- (c) Has, within five years before his election or since his election, been

convicted either on indictment or summarily of any crime, and sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour without the option of a fine, or to any greater punishment, and has not received a free pardon, or has, within or during the time aforesaid, been adjudged bankrupt or made a composition or arrangement with his creditors ; or

- (d) Holds any paid office under the Parish Council or District Council or Board of Guardians, as the case may be ; or
- (e) Is concerned in any bargain or contract entered into with the Council or Board, or participates in the profit of any such bargain or contract, or of any work done under the authority of the Council or Board."

5 & 6 Vict. c. 57 provides that no person during the time for which he may serve or hold the office of assistant overseer of any parish nor any paid officer engaged in the administration of the laws for the relief of the poor shall be capable of serving as a Guardian and no person receiving any fixed salary or emolument from the poor rates in any parish or union shall be capable of serving as a Guardian in such parish or union.

The above answer apparently also applies to a further question we have received as follows :—

Is a person who has been a relieving officer, and now pensioned off, or, retired from that office on superannuation, eligible to sit on the said Board of Guardians ?

The answer here (in the light of counsel's opinion) "Yes."

### IS YOUR AGENT A MEMBER of the

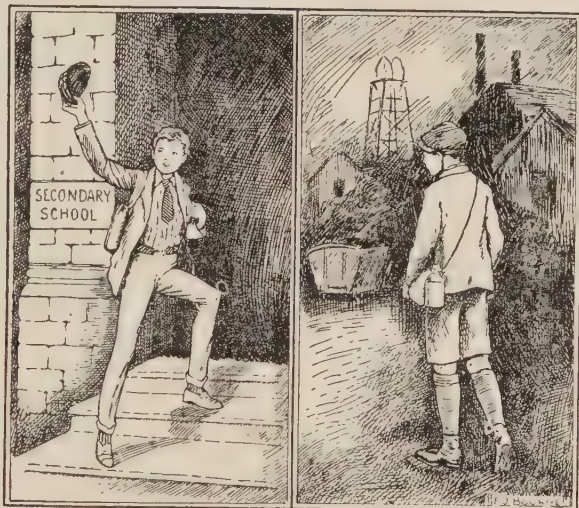
## National Association of Labour Registration and Election Agents ?

(Acts as the Trade Union  
for Labour Organisers)

General Secretary: H. DRINKWATER,  
Ladywood, Fernhill Heath, near Worcester



# Labour's Policy



What is good for the  
Rich Man's Child—

Should be within reach  
of the Worker's Child



## Vote Labour

and make all

## Secondary Education Free

Above we reproduce another of the Summerbell blocks (referred to in our last issue.) Its use here was in connection with the Durham C.C. Elections.

# The Agent and Special Election Literature.

*An Address delivered by FRANK H. EDWARDS to the Lancashire and Cheshire Section of the Labour Agents Association on March 13th, 1925.*

## THE PRELIMINARIES OF PRINTING.

What is or should be the first publication in an election? It may be agreed that the candidate's election address is the first item. I think the most telling addresses issued have been those of Mr. F. O. Roberts, because they have been serviceably illustrated and well-printed. He and his agent were printers and fully conversant with printing values. I hold that it is better for the candidate's statement not to be too lengthy, and for a few telling facts and suitable extracts to find a place, "to point the moral and adorn the tale." The size of the election address will have regard to the size of the envelope, if the address be sent out in covers. If the address can be easily folded to fit the envelope readily much time is saved and the folders do not become irritated. It obviates much effort if the election address are not placed in envelopes. It is again a question of time and the availability of a sufficient number of election workers.

With regard to the election address, indeed, in regard to all printed matter it is best to weigh up the "copy" before it is sent to the printer. Amendments of the proof mean time in resetting and additional costs. Additions and deletions take up a lot of time in the make-up. Matter should be read and re-read before being put in the printer's hands. Have the copy type-written; this facilitates the work of the "comp." Information should be given well in advance as to the approximate time of receipt of the first portion of the "copy," and the printer should know the full extent of the production. Over-setting means unnecessary expenditure. Don't wait for all the copy to be sent together. As each sheet is ready send off the messenger with it to the printer.

## SOME HINTS AND WRINKLES.

Have the most convenient arrangements with the foreman printer. Don't get the foreman printer to come downstairs; go up to him. This obviates the possibility of the conversation being overheard or the matter being seen.

Have definite understandings as to the size of type to be used for general get-up and for display. Either name the type or have an agreed system of numbering, to indicate various sizes of type. Most printers will supply booklets giving examples of printing from the various kinds of type. Have in mind that small type is less likely to be read than clear type. If comparatively small type is to be used, do not have it running across the election address but arrange for it to be set in two columns. Linotype setting costs less than hand-setting. If the candidate's signature is to be reproduced a well-written signature should be handed to the block-maker in good time.

I said that the election address should be the first publication during an election, but the agent who wants to have his work well-planned places his order for poll cards without delay, the draft having spaces for certain essential particulars to be supplied later. The order given, the printer can guillotine his cards and the work, which may take several days, can proceed immediately the definite particulars are given. It is best to have the Poll Cards numbered by the printer. A numbering machine manipulated by an experienced person can do the work far better and quicker than the pen. The printing of the numbers will be found to be a really economical proceeding. The back of the poll card might be illustrated with advantage. On the front of the card there should be a pointer opposite the candidate's name in the "voting block."

If there be a football club with a large following in the constituency, then a piquant handbill bearing on the game may prove effective. This, like other things, is best illustrated, and if some pertinent matter be offered in the language of the game it will arouse special interest in the candidature among the club's devotees. A good method, but by no means a novel one—I have tried it on three occasions—is to set out "the field," not by giving the names of the players, of course, but by stating succinctly the various issues pro



and con. If this be adopted at more than two elections its piquancy diminishes. A good method is to bring all or some of the names of the players into a short appeal for votes for Labour.

### THE ELECTION SPECIAL

With regard to the election special it is well for the agent to obtain the assistance of good writers, if possible. Plan out the production and inform the foreman printer of the plan. Make the matter varied and therefore attractive. Avoid long unbroken articles. Let the production have a crispness. Remember that there are various classes and various types within the working class in the constituency. Try to cater all-round without being "accommodating" at the expense of principle. Is it a "cotton" constituency mainly? Then see that the salient portions of the operatives' manifesto find a place. Is the co-operative movement strong? Then have a few paragraphs making a special appeal to co-operators. If someone in the constituency—favourable to Labour and highly esteemed, all the better if he be not directly associated with our Cause—will make a short literary contribution, that should be a welcome addition. Have a short dialect piece—but this advice may not be possible of general application. Some rhyme with a local flavour will prove an embellishment, but let it approximate to poetry rather than being a near relation to doggerel. Don't offer the reader pages of facts. He will not appreciate them. He may not even read them. Give a careful selection. Decorate them with suitable phrase. Present them in bold type. Turn the same facts about so that they are given in a different but summarised form and they will be grasped and remembered by many. The election special should be printed on good paper. Coarse paper will prove unattractive. Produce in time to have the delivery of the full complement effected on a Friday or Saturday. People will have a better opportunity of reading the production at the week-end than in the middle of the week.

### THE CANDIDATE ON PAPER.

It may be desirable for the candidate to supplement his election address by the publication of some special statement. He may wish to appeal to the young electors. He may be desirous of

stating his views to women voters. Such a statement might be in the form of an autograph letter, but that depends as to whether the candidate writes a clear hand or whether his caligraphy bears no particular marks of merit. If it be decided to publish an autograph communication, the printer will supply—provided he has a lithographic plant—special transfer ink and paper. It should be remembered that once the job is on the stone it is exceedingly difficult to make any correction. Another, but more costly, method is to have a block made by photographing the written copy and then transferring to zinc plate. Most printers have a fount of type which will permit of a production in imitation typewritten characters. This is quite different from the ordinary type, rather larger than the letters made by an ordinary typewriter. Such a production is likely to be read.

There is the appeal by the candidate's wife. (Be it remarked parenthetically that if she be not good looking it is unwise to use her photograph too freely, and if she be incapable of penning a suitable appeal, it is imprudent to issue a lengthy production in her name.) This production is most effective if it deals mainly with matters relating to women and children. A brief statement, nicely illustrated, is likely to be read. A long effusion may miss the mark.

### ABOUT THE STRATA.

Now, a word about stratified electioneering. We have said that there are various sections in the community, various grades within the working class. The election special must have regard to this fact. Rarely can something be produced which is of interest to all.

Special productions may be available. A short, specially-addressed appeal to teachers may be productive. A pithy and pertinent statement for shopkeepers, indicating the growth of the combine or the multiple firm in the field of distribution, may have value beyond all the other items of literature. Such productions might be in the style of imitation typewriting.

But after all, we are engaged long before an election in preparing the ground so that we may register success at the time of the Parliamentary contest. We should have in mind that a comparatively small percentage of electors attend our ordinary propaganda or

election meetings. We must go to them with our appeal. The written message is often more telling than the platform utterance. Then, too, we must not forget that at election times people cannot be expected to read all our productions, especially not if those persons be without the slightest sympathy for our Cause. Special local publications may make a bigger impression than handbills. A good plan is to distribute something with a local flavour on one occasion and a suitable handbill supplied by Headquarters on the next occasion. The handbills are certainly much cheaper. Special productions might have as the heading, "From Liberalism to Labour," with articles by former Liberals; "From Conservatives to Labour," with contributions by (and photographs of) those who have come to us from the Conservative Party; "The Religion of the Labour Movement," with a number of appropriate appeals by Anglican clergymen, Roman Catholic priests, and Non-conformist ministers; "Labour's Message to Womenfolk," with readable items on housing and home life, on domestic labour-saving appliances, on the health and upbringing of children, on women's work and wages, on woman's place in politics; "Work and Wages," with articles on the cost of living, on Workmen's Compensation, on industrial diseases, on exploitation, and so on.

#### A HINT TO AGENTS.

Agents might co-operate to a greater extent than hitherto, especially in the production of such publications as here suggested. Out of the funds of the section the cost of "pulls" from blocks might be defrayed, and these could be posted, together with particulars, to each agent in the area or handed to him at the section meeting. Blocks used at a particular election or in connection with a given production, might be used elsewhere at a later election or in connection with a similar publication, and the blocks could be purchased at small cost. Matter which has appeared in Election Specials and through other media could be amended and made applicable to other constituencies. In these directions we can co-operate to advantage, serving each other, making our individual tasks lighter and more effective, helping on the great Labour Cause.

#### NEW TIMES DEMAND NEW MEASURES.

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR MORE INTENSIVE ORGANISATION.

By MISS CLARA ADAMS.

The political Labour Movement has been in existence some thirty years, and thanks to the devoted service of the early pioneers, we now have a formidable organisation with Labour representation on almost every public body.

But the methods upon which the Party machine has been built up are less appropriate to-day. The pioneers rendered magnificent service by engaging in extensive propaganda work at the street corners, and whilst the street corner method was effective as long as we were engaged in "offensive" warfare to build up our organisation, we now require the dynamic force of a conscious membership, and an educated public opinion to make it work, and to justify its existence. To secure this, *intensive educational work* must replace the propaganda work of times past. Our inadequate educational system has taught the people how to read, but not always how to think, and in spite of the Illegal and Corrupt Practices Act, votes can still be manipulated to suit Party catch-cries. An educated democracy and a conscious citizenship is very essential if the next Labour Government is to be really effective.

Efforts in the future must therefore be made, not only to increase membership, but to secure a better understanding of our policy. A rejuvenation of ideas by an influx of young life, and a willingness to adopt new methods in keeping with the march of progress is also essential. Consideration of these things is more important for women than for men, because the busy housewife has not much time to spare, and that time must be spent to the best advantage.

The present article is specially concerned with the best methods of increasing interest and understanding amongst women. Many women's sections have barely existed through inability to get speakers, and interest has been lost when there has been no real objective in meeting. Busy women will not waste time attending useless meetings, and many women will not attend business meetings at all. It is preferable for all business to be conducted in the general local Party meetings.



Every Labour Party should therefore convene—in conjunction with Women's Sections where these exist—special meetings of all women members on their books, with a view to forming study groups. A definite scheme of study should be carefully planned on whatever subject is desired, so that members will know a week in advance what is to be discussed the following week. The "Socratic" method of question and answer might be adopted, or one member might be appointed to introduce the subject at each meeting which would be followed by a general discussion. Another alternative is for some book to be carefully read and whichever method is adopted, members might in turn write up a log of what takes place, and read it at the beginning of the next meeting, thereby establishing a point of contact between one meeting and another. If there is an outstanding woman in the group who will draw up a scheme, and keep the discussion on right lines, so much the better, otherwise, a leader must be appointed each week.

Experience has proved that this kind of meeting has aroused great interest. It has been the means of increasing knowledge and understanding, and has provided opportunity for reading, writing and speaking practice. Women who are too timid to take part in section or party meetings will unconsciously take part in a study circle discussion, because the gathering is less formal, and, therefore, less awe-inspiring.

Public lectures for women will also attract non-members, and many people, including public officials, will help in this respect, if our object is to arouse public interest and to make good citizens. Social rallies might be interspersed to provide opportunity for social intercourse.

Inter-visitation between groups, or members of groups, would augment what is already being done by conferences arranged by the Advisory Councils, to give a fuller conception of the extent of our Movement, and thus help to break down the parochialism which exists in some areas. Advisory Councils could do useful work in arranging inter-visitation schemes for groups which meet in their respective areas, and might also assist in organising schemes of study for study groups.

Scientific management has been

applied to industry to increase production with a minimum of effort and time. Our complex social system demands scientific management in political organisation if we are to succeed in establishing, not only adult suffrage, but an electorate that is politically and socially conscious. Let us then put aside all prejudices and overhaul our machinery to achieve better and more lasting results.

### MIDLAND LABOUR AGENTS AT DINNER.

Some sixty members, friends and guests attended the annual dinner of the Midland District of the Agents' Association held on the 29th. May at Birmingham, when a particularly pleasant evening was spent.

A number of M.P.s and candidates were present, these including the Rt. Hon. F. O. Roberts, M.P., Mr. F. W. Pethick Lawrence, M.P., Mr. R. Dennison, M.P., Mr. John Baker, M.P., Mr. Oswald Mosley (Ladywood), Mr. Oliver Baldwin (Dudley), Mr. Arch Gosling (Yardley), and Mr. W. H. Coulgate (Central Nottingham).

There was an enjoyable programme and four toasts, the speakers not mentioned above being Mr. H. Drinkwater, Mr. Clem Jones and Mr. Sam Hague. That the evening's programme was got through to time was largely due to the suave celerity of Mr. Dan Davies, chairman of the Midland District, who presided.

The Lancashire and Cheshire agents of the Labour Party are going into residence for a week-end at Culcheth Hall, Newchurch, near Warrington, on the 19th September. This is, we believe, the second visit of the Lancashire and Cheshire agents to this delightful spot, and an invitation has been conveyed to the E.C. of the Agents' Association to hold the annual conference at Culcheth Hall instead of at Liverpool. Culcheth Hall stands in about 130 acres of ground between Leigh and Warrington, some eighteen miles from Liverpool, the house itself being a particularly delightful holiday residence, while the grounds contain every kind of attraction that one could expect or desire in such an expansive place.

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### THE AUTUMN REGISTER.

Under date 19th May, the Home Office has issued a circular to registration officers recalling to their notice the regulations in force in regard to registration dates, electors' lists, etc.

Once again the Home Office impresses the necessity for a complete house-to-house enquiry throughout each registration area, and the desirability in selecting canvassers for this work of giving priority to persons out of work, especially ex-Service men, where suitable persons of this class are available.

In view of the alterations that have taken place in the method of registering naval and military voters it is of interest to quote in full the contents of the above circular, and it will be seen that the new position is very lucidly set forth. Particular notice might be taken by registration agents of the instruction that it is *not* the duty of registration officers to canvass men in barracks as to whether they desire to be registered as Parliamentary electors in respect of their actual residence qualification *and that it is undesirable* that they should do so.

*Naval or Military Voters.*—The procedure for the registration of naval or military voters which was described in the circular of 23rd April, 1924 (R.P. 123) should be strictly followed in every respect.

The effect of that procedure is that persons in the Forces will be registered as naval or military voters *only in pursuance of their own statements of qualification*, and that those at present so registered will continue to be registered for the same qualifying premises throughout their service unless and until they disclaim their registration for those premises for the purpose of being registered elsewhere. The procedure applies to all changes of qualifying address, *including those within the same constituency*.

As indicated in paragraph 12 of the circular R.P. 123, it should be verified in the course of the house-to-house inquiry that each man at present registered as a naval or military voter continues a member of the Forces and if in any case no information can be obtained at the qualifying premises, inquiry may be made of the appropriate service authorities as to whether the voter is still serving. But the Form

R.P. 124 must not be used for making such inquiries.

*Registration of Persons serving in H.M. Forces in respect of Actual Residence Qualifications.*—In view of inquiries which have been received on this subject, it may be convenient to re-state concisely the position with regard to the registration of persons serving in H.M. Forces for actual residence qualifications.

The expression "actual residence qualification" as applied to a person serving in H.M. Forces, means a qualification in respect of premises where *the voter actually resides (i.e., generally speaking the barracks or quarters at which he is stationed)* as opposed to a qualification which he would have had but for his service in the Forces. As mentioned in para. 14 of the circular R.P. 123 the present procedure for the registration of naval and military voters does not affect the right of an officer or man in H.M. Forces to be registered (if he so prefers) for his actual residence in barracks or quarters, and the position as to his registration for actual residence remains as explained in previous circulars.

The Act of 1918 contemplates that a man serving in the Forces would normally be registered for the qualification which he would have had but for such service and the opinion of the three Service departments is that, in the interests of the men themselves, it is, generally speaking, undesirable that they should be registered for actual residence qualifications in the constituencies in which they are stationed. It is, nevertheless, open to a voter, if he so prefers, to make a claim in respect of the latter qualification.

It is provided, however, in Section 5(1) of the Act that a naval or military voter shall not be entitled to be registered for a constituency in respect of an actual residence qualification in the constituency except on making a claim for the purpose, accompanied by a declaration in the prescribed form that he has taken reasonable steps to prevent his being registered under the foregoing provision of the sub-section for any other constituency. The prescribed form for this purpose is the Form R.P. 28, and it is not open to the registration officers to register a man as a Parliamentary elector in respect of an actual residence qualification unless he has received a claim on this form or on a

form to the like effect. *A man cannot be so registered as the result of information obtained locally.* Where a claim is received from a voter in the Army (other than an officer) the Record Office will be aware whether, and if so, in what constituencies, the man is registered, and a claim containing a declaration that the claimant is not registered elsewhere, and accompanied by a communication from the Record Office to the same effect, may properly be accepted as complying with the statutory requirements.

It is not the duty of the registration officer to canvass men in barracks, etc., as to whether they desire to be registered as Parliamentary electors in respect of their actual residence qualification, and it is undesirable that they should do so. The procedure of sending a notification on the Form R.P. 124 does not, of course, apply to cases where a member of the Forces appears to be qualified to be registered for an actual residence qualification. Where, however, any men are registered on the current register in respect of their actual residence in barracks or quarters it should be verified in the course of canvass that they are still resident at the particular barracks or quarters; it does not appear to be necessary to require a fresh claim on the Form R.P. 28 from a voter who has already been registered in pursuance of a claim on that form. If the voter is no longer in residence at those barracks or quarters the name will be included in List C in the usual course. It is also necessary that so far as the Local Government franchise is concerned inquiry should be made to ascertain whether any men are in such occupation of quarters as to entitle them to this franchise and their wives to the Parliamentary and/or Local Government franchise.

In the case of a person serving in the Forces registered for actual residence his qualification should be indicated in column 2(a) of the register by the letter "R." and not by the letters "N.M."

By Rule 17(b) in the First Schedule to the Act such persons are not to be placed on the absent voters list unless they specially claim in that behalf, i.e., on the Form R.P. 27. If placed on that list they will themselves be responsible for notifying their addresses for the purposes of voting by post at a Parliamentary election, and, in order to distinguish them from those naval or military voters whose addresses are furnished by the Service authorities, it

is requested that in all such cases the words "Actual Residence" may be added after the qualifying premises as given in column 3 of the absent voters list.

A man in the Forces who is registered for an actual residence qualification and has not been placed on the absent voters list in pursuance of a claim on R.P. 27, may, if he is transferred to another station or sent abroad, apply to the registration officer under Rule 11(2) of the Representation of the People Order to be treated as an absent voter.

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